

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (new): A shoulder pad for use with a vehicle seat belt, whereby in use the shoulder pad is for mounting on a wearer's side of the seat belt, the pad having first and second zones, the second zone being thicker in the dimension of the pad orthogonal to the plane of the seat belt used therewith than the first zone, and wherein the first zone is for location against the wearer's shoulder and the second zone is for location at a lower height against a lower part of the wearer's torso when in use the wearer is seated in a normal and substantially erect position.

Claim 16 (new): A shoulder pad as claimed in claim 15, wherein the thickness of the pad increases gradually from one end to another end.

Claim 17 (new): A shoulder pad as claimed in claim 16, further comprising a thin substrate bearing a series of projections of progressively increasing height between the ends of the pad.

Claim 18 (new): A shoulder pad as claimed in claim 15, including a tether portion to connect the pad to a vehicle seat, the tether portion being at the end of the pad adjacent to the first zone.

Claim 19 (new): A shoulder pad as claimed in claim 18, including a tether formed of a doubled-back length of narrow strapping material.

Claim 20 (new): A shoulder pad as claimed in claim 15, wherein the pad is formed from synthetic rubber.

Claim 21 (new); A shoulder pad as claimed in claim 17, and including a tapering portion, which includes the first and second zones, the tapering portion also comprising a thin substrate having a plurality of projections of progressively increasing height.

Claim 22 (new): A shoulder pad as claimed in claim 21, wherein the substrate has a thickness in the range of about 0.5 to about 1.5 mm.

Claim 23 (new): A shoulder pad as claimed in claim 21, wherein the projections in the first zone are between about 3 to about 5 mm thick and result in a total thickness of substrate and projection of about 5 mm; and further wherein the projections in the second zone are between about 8 to about 12 mm, and result in a total thickness of substrate and projection of about 11 mm.

Claim 24 (new): A shoulder pad as claimed in claim 15, wherein the pad is attached to a tether for connecting the pad to a vehicle seat.

Claim 25 (new): A vehicle seat belt for engagement with the shoulder of a user, including a shoulder pad as claimed in claim 15.

Claim 26 (new): A child car safety carrier having a harness with at least one shoulder strap, including a shoulder pad as claimed in claim 15.